GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:163
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Desalination Plants
Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram;Vichare Shri Rajan Baburao

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of acute scarcity of drinking water in various parts of the country and especially in the drought affected districts, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether desalination plants have been put in various places to treat sea water, if so, the quantum of water made potable during the last three years along with the expenditure incurred thereon State/UT wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken any step to reduce the production cost of converting sea water into potable water, and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to set up more number of desalination plants in the country including Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including capacity of each of the plants, State/ UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

****
Statement referred to in the reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.163 for reply on 05.05.2016

(a) Yes Madam. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India has taken note of acute scarcity of drinking water in 306 districts spread across 13 States, particularly in 11 drought affected States. The detailed measures of providing safe drinking water in these drought affected States as on 04/5/2016 is at Annexure-I.

In addition to this, advisory from the Government of India to all affected States has been issued to take up proper water conservation measures before the onset of monsoon so that rainwater is harvested both in surface water bodies and also help in recharging groundwater aquifers.

(b) Sea water based desalination plants set up in the country as reported by the Coastal States/ UTs of the country along with the water produced from them and expenditure incurred during the last 3 years is at Annexure-II.

(c) Desalination plants, in general, use Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology. The Operation & Maintenance cost of these Plants can be optimized/ regulated only through conducting regular water and energy audit and taking up proper repair and maintenance periodically.

(d) & (e) : Since drinking water is a State subject, the proposals initiated by the States/ Union Territories for setting up of desalination plants are examined in Government of India and decisions taken based on merit subject to availability of resources. No proposal for setting up of desalination plants has been received by this Ministry from Government of Maharashtra.

******